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# Children's Book Update for 2008-2009

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# Children's Book Update for 2008-2009

Xenia Community Schools

August 21, 2009

**Agee, Jon.** Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue. Disney/Hyperion Books, 2009. ISBN: 9781423103158

Have you ever gotten tripped up trying to say a silly succession of similar syllables? Try out these hilarious tongue twisters for lots of fun! RL 3.4

**Aguilar, David.** 11 Planets: A New View of the Solar System. National Geographic, 2008. ISBN: 9781426302367

Author David Aguilar uses brilliant photo-realistic illustration and fascinating up-to-date facts straight from the latest astronomy news to bring you a comprehensive look at our solar system as you've never seen it before. RL 6.4

**Ahlberg, Allan.** The Pencil, illustrated by Bruce Ingman. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763638948

A lonely pencil timidly draws a boy, a dog, and other items but soon faces a problem as his creations begin demanding changes, and when he draws an eraser to make them happy, the real trouble begins. RL 2.9

**Alborough, Jez.** Super Duck. Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 2009. ISBN: 9781933605890  
When, in rhyming text, Duck and his long-suffering friends, Frog, Sheep and Goat, attempt to fly a kite, chaos results. Frog is pulled into the sky as the kite flies away and Duck jumps to rescue him. RL 2.0

**Alley, Zoë.** There's a Wolf at the Door: Five Classic Tales, illustrated by R.W. Alley. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781596432758

As his plans are spoiled over and over again, the wolf keeps trying to find his dinner, in this retelling of five well-known stories and fables. RL 3.5

**Arnosky, Jim.** Slither and Crawl: Eye to Eye with Reptiles. Sterling Publishing Co., 2009. ISBN: 9781402739866

Explains how to identify venomous snakes and their harmless cousins, where to find a 200-pound lizard, how to avoid becoming an alligator's lunch and features snake fangs, alligator claws, and turtle shells--all life-size! RL 6.0

**Arnosky, Jim.** Wild Tracks! A Guide to Nature's Footprints. Sterling Publishing Co., 2008. ISBN: 9781402739859

Learn how to read the secret language of animal tracks. Find out how to tell how fresh tracks are, which animals made them, how fast they might have been traveling, and more. RL 5.9

**Ashman, Linda.** M Is for Mischief: An A to Z of Naughty Children, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. Dutton Children's Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780525475644

A rhyme for each letter of the alphabet describes the misbehavior of a child, from Angry Abby to Zany Zelda. RL 2.1

**Averbeck, Jim.** In a Blue Room, illustrated by Tricia Tusa. Harcourt, 2008. ISBN: 9780152059927

Alice wants everything in her bedroom to be blue before she falls asleep. RL 1.9

**Aylesworth, Jim.** Our Abe Lincoln. Scholastic Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780439925488  
Rhythmic verse tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's life, from his childhood in the wilderness of Illinois to his famous achievements as president. RL 2.1

**Barrett, Judi.** Never Take a Shark to the Dentist (and Other Things Not to Do), illustrated by John Nickle. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416907244  
A list of things one should not do with various animals, such as "hold hands with a lobster." RL 2.0

**Barrie, J.M.** Peter Pan, adapted and illustrated by Robert Sabuda. Little Simon, 2008. ISBN: 9780689853647  
The classic tale of the three Darling children in Never-Never Land with Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up, illustrated with elaborate pop-ups. The original text is printed on fold-out booklets attached to the pages. RL 4.8

**Barry, Frances.** Big Yellow Sunflower. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763637248  
Describes how a little seed grows into a sunflower, in a book where the pages fold out to form a large sunflower. RL 3.7

**Barry, Frances.** Little Green Frogs. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763637255  
Describes how tadpoles develop into frogs, in a book in which the pages unfold and form lily pads with frogs in the center. RL

**Bataille, Marian.** ABC—3D. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781596434257  
A pop-up book of the alphabet.

**Beccia, Carlyn.** The Raucous Royals. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. ISBN: 9780618891306  
Combines elements of nonfiction picturebooks, graphic novels, and tabloid magazines in a look at how rumors get started and how they become distorted over time as they are passed from ear to ear. RL 6.5

**Becker, Bonny.** A Visitor for Bear, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763628079  
Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse. RL 2.0 *E.B. White Read Aloud Award for Picture Books*

**Berger, Carin.** The Little Yellow Leaf. Greenwillow Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780061452239  
A yellow leaf is not ready to fall from the tree when autumn comes, but finally, after finding another leaf still on the tree, the two let go together. RL 4.9

**Bishop, Nic.** Nic Bishop Butterflies and Moths. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2009. ISBN: 9780439877572  
Simple, engaging text presents both basic information and fun, quirky facts about the insects' appearance, habits, and life cycle. RL 3.6

**Bloch, Serge.** Butterflies in My Stomach and Other School Hazards. Sterling, 2008. ISBN: 9781402741586  
On the first day of school, a student is confused by many of the phrases that are used, such as when the librarian says not to open a can of worms, or when the teacher says he expects the class to be busy bees doing their homework. RL 3.9

**Brown, Don.** All Stations! Distress!: April 15, 1912, the Day the *Titanic* Sank. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781596432222

Provides the captivating story of this amazing vessel, the people who built it, and its tragic demise during its maiden voyage across the Atlantic as told through first-hand accounts and detailed illustrations of the events as they happened. RL 5.9

**Brown, Don.** Let It Begin Here! April 19, 1775: The Day the American Revolution Began. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781596432215

Provides an informative look at the events that lead up to this important day in history when American heroes took a stand against an oppressive monarch in order gain the freedom they deserved in the new land they worked hard to build. RL 6.1

**Browne, Anthony.** Little Beauty. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763639594  
When a gorilla who knows sign language tells his keepers that he is lonely, they bring him a very special friend. RL 1.9

**Burleigh, Robert.** Abraham Lincoln Comes Home, illustrated by Wendell Minor. Henry Holt and Co., 2008. ISBN: 9780805075298  
Told through the eyes of a young boy, the sober mood of the country after the Lincoln assassination is presented as he and many other mourners wait to pay their respects to their fallen president as Lincoln's funeral train travels from Washington, D.C., to Springfield, Illinois, in 1865. RL 3.2

**Burleigh, Robert.** One Giant Leap, illustrated by Mike Wimmer. Philomel Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780399238833  
Commemorating the 40th anniversary of man's first walk on the moon, this book is a tribute that transports readers to the stars, where they will experience the moon landing just as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did. RL 3.9

**Campbell, Sarah C.** Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator. Boyds Mill Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781590785546  
Stunning photographs and a fact-filled story deliver a closeup look at a day in the life of a tiny, and unexpected, predator-the seriously slimy wolfsnail. RL 2.1 *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

**Capaldi, Gina.** A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero. Carolrhoda Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780822576440  
This story reveals the life of a Native American boy named Wassaja, who was kidnapped from his tribe and sold as a slave. Adopted and renamed Carlos Montezuma, the young boy traveled throughout the Old West, bearing witness to the poor treatment of Native Americans. Carlos eventually became a doctor and leader for his people. RL 5.6

**Carle, Eric.** The Very Hungry Caterpillar Pop-Up Book. Philomel Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780399250392  
Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep and wakes up a butterfly. RL 2.6

**Carter, David A.** Yellow Square. Little Simon, 2008. ISBN: 9781416940937  
Pop-up pages lead the reader to find the yellow square in each picture. RL 3.7

**Catanese, P.W.** Happenstance Found: Books of Umber, Book 1. Aladdin, 2009. ISBN: 9781416975199  
A boy awakens, blindfolded, with no memory of even his name, but soon meets Lord Umber, an adventurer and inventor, who calls him Happenstance and tells him that he has a very important destiny--and a powerful enemy. RL 6.1

**Chaikin, Andrew.** Mission Control, This Is Apollo : The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon. Viking, 2009. ISBN: 9780670011568

Recounts various important events from the history of space exploration, covering the Mercury missions, the voyage of Apollo 17, and more, with illustrations by ex-NASA astronaut Alan Bean, who walked on the moon during the Apollo 12 mission. RL 6.0

**Cheney, Lynne.** We the People: The Story of Our Constitution, illustrated by Greg Harlin. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416954187

In May 1787 delegates from across the country--including George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin--gathered in Philadelphia and, meeting over the course of a sweltering summer, created a new framework for governing: the Constitution of the United States. RL 8.3

**Chin, Jason.** Redwoods. Roaring Brook Press, 2009. ISBN: 9781596434301

A young city boy, riding the subway, finds an abandoned book about redwoods. He finds himself in the very forest described in the book. After finishing the book, he leaves it for someone else to read. RL 4.8

**Clayton, Sally Pomme.** Persephone, illustrated by Virginia Lee. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9780802853493

Persephone is snatched from her home by Hades, god of the Underworld. She is forced to live underground and become his bride. Her mother, Demeter, goddess of earth, is so brokenhearted about losing her daughter that she curses the land so nothing can grow - a permanent winter. RL 4.6

**Cook, Michelle.** Our Children Can Soar: A Celebration of Rosa, Barack, and the Pioneers of Change, illustrated by Marian Wright Edelman. Bloomsbury, 2009. ISBN: 9781599904184  
Part historical, part poetry, and entirely inspirational, this unique picture book takes the reader through the cumulative story of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, expanding the popular slogan beyond Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Barack Obama to include more key players in the struggle for equality. RL 1.9

**Cordsen, Carol Foksett.** Market Day, illustrated by Douglas B. Jones. Dutton's Children's Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780525478836

The Benson family is so busy preparing for their day at a farmers' market that they not only forget to feed the cow, they leave the farmyard gate open and the hungry cow follows them, making a mess of the market. RL 1.8

**Cottin, Menena.** The Black Book of Colors. Groundwood Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780888998736

This title invites readers to imagine living without sight through remarkable illustrations done with raised lines and descriptions of colors based on imagery. Braille letters accompany the illustrations and a full Braille alphabet offers sighted readers help reading along with their fingers. RL 3.6

**Cronin, Doreen.** Thump, Quack, Moo: A Whacky Adventure. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416916307

The annual Corn Maze Festival is coming and every day the chickens, cows, and Duck help Farmer Brown--with a few bribes--to create a special Statue of Liberty corn maze, and every night Duck works hard creating his own surprise. RL 2.7

**Curlee, Lynn.** Trains. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9781416948483

Traces the history and development of trains, starting with steam-powered wagons on a tramway, and describing the changing technology over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. RL 6.9

**Darbyshire, Kristen.** Put It on the List! Dutton Children's Books, 2009.

ISBN: 9780525479062

When family members see the consequences of forgetting to write things on the grocery list, they not only do better at keeping the list up-to-date, they also help with the shopping to ensure they never again eat pickled grubs. RL 2.2

**Davis, Eleanor.** Stinky. Little Lit Library, 2008. ISBN: 9780979923845

Stinky, a monster who lives in a swamp, gets upset when a boy named Nick starts hanging around his swamp, and so he tries to scare Nick away. RL 1.7 *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

**dePaola, Tomie.** Brava Strega Nona. Putnam, 2008. ISBN: 9780399244537

Strega Nona shares the six ingredients for a magical life, illustrated with elaborate pop-ups. Also includes a few basic Italian words and phrases. RL

**DiCamillo, Kate.** Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken, illustrated by Harry Bliss. Joanna Cotler Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780060755546

Longing for adventure, intrepid Louise leaves her comfortable nest and goes to sea. RL 3.6

**Dorros, Arthur.** Papá and Me, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez. HarperCollins, 2008.

ISBN: 9780060581565

A bilingual boy and his father, who only speaks Spanish, spend a day together. RL 2.0 *Pura Belpre Illustrator Honor book*

**Emberley, Rebecca and Ed Emberley.** Chicken Little. Roaring Brook Press, 2009.

ISBN: 9781596434646

A retelling of the classic story of Chicken Little, who has an acorn fall on his head and runs in a panic to his friends Henny Penny, Lucky Ducky, and Loosey Goosey, to tell them the sky is falling. RL 2.8

**Ering, Timothy Basil.** Necks Out for Adventure! Candlewick Press, 2008.

ISBN: 9780763623555

Unlike the other wiggleskins who live happily in the mud and only stick their necks out to eat, Edwin is eager for different experiences and follows his mother's advice to stick his neck out for adventure. RL 2.7

**Farris, Christine King.** March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World, illustrated by London Ladd. Scholastic, 2008. ISBN: 9780545035378

Christine King Farris describes how her brother, Martin Luther King, Jr., prepared for his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. RL 3.7

**Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise.** There. Roaring Brook Press, 2009. ISBN: 9781596430877

A young girl asks questions about growing up as she walks over rolling hills, climbs a ladder up to the stars, and meets a dragon. RL 1.5

**Floca, Brian.** Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9781416950462

Here is the story of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon -- a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away by steady astronauts in their great machines. RL 3.8

**Florian, Douglas.** Dinothesaurus: Pregistoric Poems and Paintings. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780152164966

An illustrated collection of poems and collages about dinosaurs. RL 3.9

**Fox, Mem.** Hello Baby, illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Beach Lane Books, 2009. ISBN: 9781416985136

A baby encounters a variety of young animals, including a clever monkey, a hairy warthog, and a dusty lion cub, before discovering the most precious creature of all. RL 1.5

**Fox, Mem.** Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. Harcourt, 2008. ISBN: 9780152060572

Rhyming text compares babies born in different places and in different circumstances, but they all share the commonality of ten little fingers and ten little toes. RL 3.2

**Fradin, Dennis Brindell.** Duell: Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War of Words, illustrated by Larry Day. Walker & Co., 2008. ISBN: 9780802795830

In the early morning hours of July 11, 1804, two men stood facing each other on a New Jersey cliff side. One was the U.S. vice president, Aaron Burr, and the other was Alexander Hamilton, the secretary of the treasury. They were ready to fight to the death for honor. RL 5.7

**Franco, Betsy.** Bees, Snails, & Peacock Tails: Patterns and Shapes - Naturally!, illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008. ISBN: 9781416903864

Rhyming text and illustrations depict the science and geometrical patterns of various animals, such as starfish, peacocks, diamondback snakes, and spiders. RL 5.4

**Freedman, Russell.** Washington at Valley Forge. Holiday House, 2008. ISBN: 9780823420698

Washington's army nearly perished during the winter of 1777-78. Camped at Valley Forge, the revolutionaries endured severe hardship. The army's supply system had collapsed and they were without supplies. But when the harsh winter ended, the soldiers had survived, and marched away from Valley Forge more determined than ever. RL 7.2 *Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Honor book*

**Gerstein, Mordicai.** A Book. Roaring Brook Press, 2009. ISBN: 9781596432512

"Once in a book by Mordecai Gerstein ... there lived a family of characters." This is the tale of one little girl's search for her own story. RL 2.8

**Giovanni, Nikki.** The Grasshopper's Song: An Aesop's Fable Revisted, illustrated by Chris Raschka. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763630218

Angry that his singing is unappreciated by the Ants who relied on his music to make their summer work easier, Jimmy Grasshopper decides to sue them for lacking respect and not acknowledging his usefulness in their lives. RL 3.9

**Gold, August.** Thank You, God, for Everything, illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2009. ISBN: 9780399240492

As Daisy watches her parents thanking God everyday, she begins to look at everything around her and realizes she is also thankful for many things. RL 2.9

**González, Lucía M.** The Storyteller's Candle, illustrations by Lulu Delacre. Children's Book Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780892392223

During the early days of the Great Depression, New York City's first Puerto Rican librarian, Pura Belpré, introduces the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio and hosts the neighborhood's first Three Kings' Day fiesta. RL 2.6 *Pura Belpre Author Award Honor book, Pura Belpre Illustrator Award Honor book*

**Gorbachev, Valeri.** Turtle's Penguin Day. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. ISBN: 9780375843747

After hearing a bedtime story about penguins, Turtle dresses as a penguin for school and soon the entire class is having a penguin day. RL 3.1

**Graham, Bob.** How to Heal a Broken Wing. Candlewick Press, 2008.

ISBN: 9780763639037

When Will finds a bird with a broken wing, he takes it home and cares for it, hoping in time it will be able to return to the sky. RL 2.1

**Grant, Judyann Ackerman.** Chicken Said, "Cluck", illustrated by Sue Truesdell.

HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 9780060287238

Earl and Pearl do not want Chicken's help in the garden, until a swarm of grasshoppers arrives and her true talent shines. RL 0.8 *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

**Gratz, Alan.** The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings. Dial Books, 2009.

ISBN: 9780803732247

Follows the fortunes of a German immigrant family through nine generations, beginning in 1845, as they experience American life and play baseball. RL 5.0

**Gravett, Emily.** Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416959304

Little Mouse draws pictures of some of the many things he is afraid of, including creepy crawlies, sharp knives, and having accidents, and provides the correct scientific name for each of his fears. RL 3.7 *Kate Greenaway Medal*

**Grey, Mini.** Traction Man Meets TurboDog. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. ISBN: 9780375855832

Traction Man, an action figure, teams up with the high-tech but not-so-bright Turbodog to rescue Scrubbing Brush, his missing sidekick, from the terrible underworld of the bin.

RL 3.4

**Grimes, Nikki.** Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope, illustrated by Bryan Collier.

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416971443

Full-color illustrations and easy-to-follow text presents a narrative description of the life of politician Barack Obama, beginning with his childhood in Hawaii, his family, his education, and professional achievements. RL 4.8

**Gross, Elly.** Elly: My True Story of the Holocaust. Scholastic Press, 2009.

ISBN: 9780545074940

Relates how the author was torn from her happy home and sent to Birkenau by the Nazis, describing how she worked long hours and fought for survival before being set free at the end of the war and beginning a new life in America. RL 5.1

**Haas, Robert B.** African Critters. National Geographic, 2008. ISBN: 9781426303173

From elephants to dung beetles, photos of selected African animals. RL 5.4

**Hale, Shannon and Dean.** Rapunzel's Revenge, illustrated by Nathan Hale. Bloomsbury, 2008. ISBN: 9781599900704



Rapunzel is raised in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls. Rapunzel dreams of a different mother than Gothel, the woman she calls Mother. She climbs over the wall and finds out the truth. Her real mother, Kate, is a slave in Gothel's gold mine. In this Old West retelling, Rapunzel uses her hair as a lasso and to take on outlaws--including Gothel. RL 5.4

**Hannigan, Katherine.** Emmaline and the Bunny. Greenwillow Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780061626548

Everyone and everything in the town of Neatasapin is tidy, except Emmaline who likes to dig dirt and jump in puddles, and wants to adopt an untidy bunny. RL 4.5

**Harris, Robie H.** The Day Leo Said I Hate You, illustrated by Molly Bang. Little, Brown & Co., 2008. ISBN: 9780316065801

Leo, upset that he has been hearing the word "no" all day, lets three words slip out that he wishes he could take back. RL 2.2

**Harris, Robie H.** Mail Harry to the Moon, illustrated by Michael Emberley. Little, Brown & Co., 2008. ISBN: 9780316153768

Harry's older brother, unhappy that the new baby seems to have taken over, dreams up imaginative ways to get rid of him. RL 2.0

**Henkes, Kevin.** Birds, illustrated by Laura Dronzek. Greenwillow Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780061363054

Fascinated by the colors, shapes, sounds, and movements of the many different birds she sees through her window, a little girl is happy to discover that she and they have something in common. RL 2.1

**Henkes, Kevin.** Old Bear. Greenwillow Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780061552052

When Old Bear falls asleep for the winter, he has a dream that he is a cub again, enjoying each of the four seasons. RL 2.3 *Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor book*

**Henry, O.** The Gift of the Magi, illustrated by P.J. Lynch. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763635305

A husband and wife sacrifice treasured possessions in order to buy each other Christmas presents. RL 5.9

**Hesse, Karen.** Spuds, illustrated by Wendy Watson. Scholastic Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780439879934

Maybelle, Jack, and Eddie want to help Ma by putting something extra on the table, so they set out in the dark to take potatoes from a nearby field, but when they arrive home and empty their potato sacks, they are surprised by what they see. RL 4.2

**Hest, Amy.** Dog Who Belonged to No One, The, illustrated by Amy Bates. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9780810994836

The hard-working daughter of two bakers and a perfectly nice stray dog live lonely lives in the same town, until they meet one very stormy day. RL 3.2

**Hest, Amy.** Little Chick, illustrated by Anita Jeram. Candlewick Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780763628901

Three full color tales about a special intergenerational bond, featuring Little Chick and his loving Old Auntie. RL 1.6

**Hill, Susanna Leonard.** Not Yet, Rose, illustrated by Nicole Rutten. Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780802853264

While impatiently waiting for the birth of a new baby brother or sister, Rose imagines the things they will do together and how her life will change. RL 1.4

**Hillenbrand, Will.** Louie! Philomel Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780399247071  
Louie the pig loves to draw but it gets him thrown out of every school he attends, so he goes to live with his aunt and uncle who help him realize he has a wonderful talent. A tribute to Ludwig Bemelmans, creator of the picture book character, Madeline. RL 3.5

**Himmelman, John.** Katie Loves the Kittens. Henry Holt & Co., 2008. ISBN: 9780805086829  
When Sara Ann brings home three little kittens, Katie the dog's enthusiasm frightens the kittens away, until she learns that quiet patience is sometimes needed to begin a friendship. RL 1.8

**Hines, Anna Grossnickle.** 1, 2, Buckle My Shoe. Harcourt, 2008. ISBN: 9780152063054  
A child learns to count with the help of a classic nursery rhyme. RL 0.6

**Hoberman, Mary Ann.** Strawberry Hill. Little, Brown & Co., 2009. ISBN: 9780316041362  
Ten-year-old Allie's family moves from urban New Haven to rural Stamford, Connecticut, in the midst of the Great Depression. RL 4.4

**Hopkins, Lee Bennett.** City I Love, illustrated by Marcellus Hall. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780810983274  
Featuring eighteen poems that guide the reader on an international tour--from New York to San Francisco, London to Tokyo, and beyond, this extraordinary urban-themed collection celebrates the beauty, diversity, energy, architecture, and excitement of city life. RL 3.7

**Hopkinson, Deborah.** Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale, illustrated by John Hendrix. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780375837685  
In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend, Austin Gollaher. RL 3.4

**Hopkinson, Deborah.** Home on the Range: John A. Lomax and His Cowboy Songs, illustrated by S.D. Schindler. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2009.  
As a child, John Avery Lomax loved the songs he heard the cowboys singing along the nearby Chisholm Trail. He began writing them down at an early age. As John grew older, he traveled the country collecting and recording cowboy songs, helping to preserve many favorites. RL 4.9

**Horowitz, Dave.** Humpty Dumpty Climbs Again. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. ISBN: 9780399247736  
Humpty Dumpty has not climbed a single wall since his great fall, despite the urging of friends and teasing of others, but when one of the king's horses is stuck he finds the courage--and the proper climbing equipment--to help out. RL 2.8

**Howe, James.** Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time, illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763633844  
Houndsley loves the quiet of the first snow of winter, but Catina does not enjoy being snowed in. What about all her plans for the day? With pretending, books, games, creativity, and some time to dream, Houndsley helps Catina let go of her worries and enjoy the snowy day. RL 2.2

**Hughes, Langston.** My People, photographs by Charles R. Smith, Jr. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9781416935407

Hughes's spare yet eloquent tribute to his people has been cherished for generations. Now, acclaimed photographer Smith interprets this beloved poem in vivid sepia photographs that capture the glory, the beauty, and the soul of being a black American today. RL 2.8

**Hughes, Langston.** The Negro Speaks of Rivers, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Disney Jump at the Sun Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780786818679

The famous poem, taken from The collected poems of Langston Hughes (c1994), illustrated with watercolors. RL 3.2

**Hutchins, Hazel.** Mattland, illustrated by Dušan Petričić. Annick Press, 2008.

ISBN: 9781554511211

Matt's new subdivision is nothing but rocks and mud, but with help from his imagination and friends he maps out a new world. RL 3.0 *Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Medal book*

**Ives, Penny.** Celestine, Drama Queen. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2009.

ISBN: 9780545087155

Celestine the duck is sure that she is destined for stardom, but when her big break comes, she is temporarily stricken with stage fright. RL 3.5

**Janeczko, Paul B.** A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout, illustrated by Chris Raschka. Candlewick Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780763606633

A collection of lively rhymes and tricky tongue twisters, poems for more than one voice, bilingual poems -- from classic Shakespeare and Lear to anonymous rhymes to contemporary riffs on everything under the sun. These poems just might inspire kids to memorize them! RL 4.0

**Jenkins, Steve.** Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009. ISBN: 9780618966363

Provides a top-to-bottom look at the ocean, from birds and waves to thermal vents and ooze. RL 5.6

**Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page.** How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly? Houghton Mifflin Co., 2008. ISBN: 9780618966349

Flies are fast! They can hover, walk upside down, and use their lightning-quick reflexes to escape predators. But rainbow trout, slender lorises, and assassin bugs can catch them. Chimney swifts can, too. How do such diverse creatures manage to capture the same prey? Similar in structure to *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?*, this eye-popping picture book introduces readers to a menagerie of animals that approach the same challenges in very different ways. RL 4.1

**Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page.** Sisters & Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2008. ISBN: 9780618375967

An illustrated picture book that investigates sibling relationships within the animal kingdom. RL 3.2

**Josse, Barbara.** Roawr! Philomel Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780399247774

When Liam hears a loud roar in the middle of the night, he must use all his ingenuity to protect his sleeping mother from a hungry bear. RL 2.0

**Jules, Jacqueline.** Abraham's Search for God, illustrated by Natascia Ugliano.

ISBN: 9781580132435

A creative legend about the father of the world's great religions. RL 3.3

**Kajikawa, Kimiko.** Tsunami!, illustrated by Ed Young. Philomel Books, 2009.

ISBN: 9780399250064

A wealthy man in a Japanese village, who everyone calls Ojiisan, which means grandfather, sets fire to his rice fields to warn the innocent people of an approaching tsunami. RL 2.9

**Katz, Alan.** Smelly Locker: Silly Dilly School Songs, illustrated by David Catrow. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008. ISBN: 9781416906957

Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," are presented with new words and titles, such as "Heavy Backpack!" and "I Don't Want to Do Homework!" RL 2.5

**Khan, Hena.** Night of the Moon: A Muslim Holiday Story, illustrated by Julie Paschkis.

Chronicle Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780811860628

Yasmeen has a wonderful time celebrating the Muslim holy month of Ramadan with her family and friends. RL 3.0

**Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody.** Boy on the Lion Throne: The Childhood of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama.

Roaring Brook Press, 2009. ISBN: 9781596433946

Follows the childhood of the 14th Dalai Lama from his simple life in a mountain village to the thousand-room Potala Palace and his perilous escape into exile. RL 5.9

**Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody.** Glamsters, illustrated by Jackie Urbanovic. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. ISBN: 9781423111481

Harriet the hamster is desperate to be adopted, so she gives her sister Patricia and herself glamorous makeovers in hopes they will get more attention when Hamster World has its huge annual sale. RL 5.1

**Kinney, Jeff.** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw. Amulet Books, 2009.

ISBN: 9780810970687

Middle-schooler Greg Heffley nimbly sidesteps his father's attempts to change Greg's wimpy ways until his father threatens to send him to military school. RL 6.1

**Kohara, Kazuno.** Ghosts in the House. Roaring Brook Press, 2008.

ISBN: 9781596434271

Tired of living in a haunted house, a young witch captures, washes, and turns her pesky ghosts into curtains and a tablecloth. RL 1.6

**Larios, Julie.** Imaginary Menagerie: A Book of Curious Creatures, illustrated by Julie

Paschkis. Harcourt, 2008. ISBN: 9780152063252

Poems and vivid illustrations present fourteen mythical creatures, including a dragon, a centaur, a gargoyle, and a sphinx. RL 1.9

**Leebrick, Kristal.** The Lucky Buckeye: A Story About Ohio, illustrated by Bob Doucet.

ABDO, 2009. ISBN: 9781604531855

Bucky and his grandfather head north to the storytelling festival in Cleveland, Ohio. Grandfather's stories teach about the animals, plants, geography, and culture that make Ohio a great state. RL 2.9

**Lester, Helen.** Tacky Goes to Camp. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009.

ISBN: 9780618988129

Tacky the penguin and his friends go to Camp Whoopihaha where they scare each other by telling ghost stories around the campfire, never expecting that one of the frightening stories will come true. RL 3.4

**Levy, Janice.** Gonzalo Grabs the Good Life, illustrated by Bill Slavin. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780802853288  
When Gonzalo the rooster wins the lottery, he leaves his job at the farm in search of the good life. RL 2.0

**Lewin, Ted and Betsy.** Horse Song: The Naadam of Mongolia. Lee & Low Books, 2008. ISBN: 9781584302773  
Ted and Betsy Lewin describe the landscapes, people, and activities they encounter during a trip to Mongolia for Naadam, the annual summer festival where child jockeys ride half-wild horses for miles across the Mongolian steppe. RL 5.6

**Lewis, Beverly.** What Is God Like?, illustrated by Pamela Querin. Bethany Backyard. 2008. ISBN: 9780764204661  
A boy and his younger sister, remembering what their father has told them and what they have read in the Bible, help each other to understand the attributes of God. RL 2.1

**Lewis, J. Patrick.** The World's Greatest: Poems. Chronicle Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780811851305  
Who has kissed the most cobras? Eaten the most live scorpions? Sailed highest on a skateboard? Been stuck the longest in an elevator? These and 21 other vexing superlatives are the subject matter of this zany collection of verse by one of America's most well-loved poets, J. Patrick Lewis. Comic illustrations by Keith Graves make this the funniest, wackiest, rhyming-est book on the shelf. RL 3.5

**Lobel, Arnold.** The Frogs and Toads All Sang. HarperCollins, 2009. ISBN: 9780061800221  
Presents a linked collection of ten short stories in rhyme featuring frogs, toads, and polliwogs. RL 2.3

**Long, Loren.** Drummer Boy. Philomel Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780399251740  
After accidentally being thrown away, a beloved toy drummer boy goes on an adventure that eventually brings him back to a warm home, where he is placed near baby Jesus in a manger scene. RL 4.9

**Low, William.** Machines Go to Work. Henry Holt, 2009. ISBN: 9780805087598  
A lift-the-flap book in which cement mixers, helicopters, backhoes, and other machines go to work around town. RL 2.3

**Mack, Stan.** Road to Revolution. Bloomsbury, 2009. ISBN: 9781599900131  
In 1775, Penny and her friend Nick, a homeless orphan, find themselves amidst the conflict in Massachusetts as the colonists prepare to revolt against the British military. RL 4.8

**Marceau, Fani.** Panorama: A Foldout Book, illustrated by Joëlle Jolivet. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780810983328  
Illustrations and simple text invite the reader to visit different places around the world, then to view the same scenes at night on the reverse of the fanfolded page. RL 3.7

**Marciano, John Bemelmans.** Madeline and the Cats of Rome. Viking, 2008. ISBN: 9780670062973  
The orphan Madeline catches a thief and makes a friend in Rome. RL 2.6

**Marino, Nan.** Neil Armstrong Is My Uncle and Other Lies Muscleman McGinty Told Me. Roaring Brook Press, 2009. ISBN: 9781596434998

Muscle Man McGinty is a squirrely runt, a lying snake, and a pitiful excuse for a ten-year old.....the problem is that no one knows it but me. In the entire town of Massapequa Park, only I can see him for what he really is. It's the summer of 1969, and things are not only changing in Tamara's little Long Island town, but in the world. Perhaps Tamara could stand to take one small step toward a bit of compassion and understanding? RL 4.3

**Martin, Bill.** The Bill Martin Jr Big Book of Poetry. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416939719

The definitive anthology of children's poetry with beautiful illustrations. RL 3.0

**Mass, Wendy.** 11 Birthdays. Scholastic Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780545052399

After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again. RL 3.9

**McCain, Meghan.** My Dad, John McCain, illustrated by Dan Andreasen. Aladdin, 2008. ISBN: 9781416975281

This picture book biography, written with great love and insight by his oldest daughter, writer Meghan McCain, shows us the public John McCain and the personal John McCain in a way we've never seen before--making this American hero come to life before young eyes. RL 4.1

**McCarthy, Meghan.** Seabiscuit the Wonder Horse. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416933601

The true story of Seabiscuit, the grandson of one of the greatest racehorses of all time. But he'd lost nearly every race he'd run. Automobile tycoon Charles Howard took a risk and purchased Seabiscuit for a bargain price. With a clever new trainer and a loving jockey, Seabiscuit began winning. But could he really beat the Triple Crown Champion? RL 3.8

**McClements, George.** Baron von Baddie and the Ice Ray Incident. Harcourt, 2008. ISBN: 9780152061388

When Baron von Baddie defeats his nemesis, Captain Kapow, he discovers that it is not as much fun to create chaos and engage in bad behavior if no one tries to stop him. RL 2.9

**McClintock, Barbara.** Adèle and Simon in America. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. ISBN: 9780374399245

When Adèle and Simon visit their Aunt Cécile in New York City, she takes them on a train trip around the United States, but from Boston to San Francisco to Washington, D.C., Simon keeps losing his belongings, despite his sister's reminders. Includes facts about the places they visit. RL 3.4

**McDonald, Megan.** The Hinky-Pink, illustrated by Brian Floca. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9780689875885

Summoned to the Great Castle of Firenze to create a special dress for Princess Isabella Caramella Gorgonzola, Anabel, a talented seamstress, is at first delighted but then increasingly despairing as time passes and her efforts are continually subverted by an unseen sprite. RL 3.8

**McDonnell, Patrick.** South. Little, Brown & Co., 2008. ISBN: 9780316005098

Mooch the cat helps a lonely bird find its flock, which has flown south for the winter. Wordless book.

**McDowell, Marilyn Taylor.** Carolina Harmony. Delacorte Press, 20009.

ISBN: 9780385735902

In the summer of 1964, Carolina is a runaway hiding out at Harmony Farm in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. The Harmony's, Mr. Ray and Miss Latah treat Carolina as their own and wait for her to reveal her secret. But Carolina doesn't want to reveal the accident that claimer her parents and her younger brother and the surrogate grandmother who cared for Carolina until illness forced Carolina to go to a foster home. Russell, a troublemaker who runs away from the foster home where Carolina was, comes to Harmony Farm. Then something so terrible happens that Carolina must run away again. RL 4.7

**McGill, Alice.** Way Up and Over Everything, illustrated by Jude Daly. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. ISBN: 9780618387960

In this retelling of a folktale, five Africans escape the horrors of slavery by simply disappearing into thin air. RL 4.3

**Metaxas, Eric.** It's Time to Sleep My Love, illustrated by Nancy Tillman. Feiwel & Friends, 2008. ISBN: 9780312383718

As children prepare for bed, the world around them is also settling down for the night. Through the seasons, animals who live in the jungle, the forest, and the sea all whisper to their babies, and to yours, a soft refrain: "It's time to sleep, my love." RL 2.4

**Milgrim, David.** Santa Duck. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. ISBN: 9780399250187

When Nicholas Duck, wearing a Santa hat and coat he found on his doorstep, goes looking for Santa to tell him what he wants for Christmas, all the other animals mistake him for Mr. Claus. RL 2.2

**Molski, Carol.** Swimming Sal, illustrated by Mary Newell DePalma. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780802853271

As the only dog at Hilltop Farm who has never won an award, Sal, encouraged by her mother's reminder of her Portuguese water dog heritage, decides to perfect her swimming skills by joining the swim team at the YMCA. RL 2.4

**Morales, Yuri.** Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781596433298

As Señor Calavera prepares for Grandma Beetle's birthday he finds an alphabetical assortment of unusual presents, but with the help of Zelmiro the Ghost, he finds the best gift of all. RL 2.3 *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award book, Pura Belpre Author Award Honor book, Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature*

**Morpurgo, Michael.** Hansel and Gretel, illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780763640125

When they are left in the woods by their parents, Hansel and Gretel find their way home despite an encounter with a wicked witch. RL 3.5

**Mortenson, Greg.** Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea, illustrated by Susan L. Roth. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780803730588  
This is the story of Greg Mortenson's first building project in Pakistan. RL 3.0

**Murphy, Jim.** A Savage Thunder: Antietam and the Bloody Road to Freedom. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780689876332

In September 1862, two great armies faced each other across Antietam Creek. The outnumbered Confederate forces were led by General Robert E. Lee. The Union army was led by General George B. McClellan. Jim Murphy uses archival photographs, maps, and firsthand accounts to recreate one of America's most important battles. RL 6.7

**Nakagawa, Chihiro.** Who Made This Cake?, illustrated by Junji Koyose. Front Street, 2008. ISBN: 9781590785959

While a boy and his parents go for an outing, little people invade the house and use their big construction equipment to bake a cake. RL 1.5

**Nevius, Carol.** Baseball Hour, illustrated by Bill Thomson. Marshall Cavendish Children, 2008. ISBN: 9780761453802

Follows a multicultural group of boys and girls through their team's baseball practice. RL 3.9

**Niemann, Christopher.** The Pet Dragon: A Story about Adventure, Friendship, and Chinese Characters. Greenwillow Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780061577772

When Lin's beloved pet dragon disappears, she searches for him far and wide until a witch helps her to reach the dragon's new home. Introduces a different Chinese character on each step of Lin's adventure. RL 2.1

**Nobleman, Marc Tyler.** Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman, illustrated by Ross MacDonald. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. ISBN: 9780375838026

Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster, two misfit teens in Cleveland, were more like Clark Kent than Superman. Both boys escaped into the worlds of science fiction and pulp magazine tales. In 1934, they created the superhero, but it was four years before they convinced a publisher to take a chance on their Man of Steel in a new format--the comic book. RL 5.0

**Numberman, Neil.** Do Not Build a Frankenstein. Greenwillow Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780061568169

A boy warns his new neighbors of the trouble that comes with building a monster, including having to move to a different town in hopes of escaping his creation. RL 2.3

**O'Connor, Jane.** Fancy Nancy: Explorer Extraordinaire!, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser. HarperCollinsPublishers, 2009. ISBN: 9780061684869

Nancy and her friend Bree explore the fascinating world of birds and insects in their exclusive and glamorous Explorers Extraordinaire Club. RL 3.0

**O'Connor, Jane.** Fancy Nancy Tea Parties. Harper, 2009. ISBN: 9780061801747

In her own inimitable style, the girl who loves to use fancy words provides tips on how to host the perfect tea party, describing how to behave, food and drinks to serve, games to play, and much more. RL 4.8

**Olson, Tod.** How to Get Rich in the California Gold Rush. National Geographic, 2008. ISBN: 9781426303159

A personal account of the California Gold Rush from the point-of-view of the fictitious Thomas Hartley. RL 5.7

**Otoshi, Kathryn.** One. KO Kids Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780972394642

A number/color book reminding us that it just takes one to make everyone count. RL 3.4

**Ottaviani, Jim.** T-Minus: The Race to the Moon. Aladdin, 2009. ISBN: 9781416986829

The whole world followed the countdown to sending the first men to the moon. This is the story of the people who made it happen, both in the rockets and behind the scenes. RL 4.2

**Palatine, Margie.** Lousy Rotten Stinkin' Grapes, illustrated by Barry Moser. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780689802461

Retells the fable of a frustrated fox that, after many tries to reach a high bunch of grapes, decides they must be sour anyway. RL 1.9



**Parish, Herman.** Amelia Bedelia's First Day of School. Greenwillow Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780061544552

A literal-minded first-grader's first day of school is filled with confusing adventures, much to her delight. RI 1.8

**Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw.** When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone, illustrated by Dan Hartman and Cassie Hartman. Walker, 2008. ISBN: 9780802796868

When wolves were eliminated from Yellowstone National Park the natural system was out of balance. Shows the return of the wolves to the park and the natural balance being restored. RL 5.1 *Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Honor book*

**Patricelli, Leslie.** Higher! Higher! Walker, 2009. ISBN: 9780763632410

Two children encourage their father to push them perpetually higher on the swing as they try to surpass the height of a giraffe, a mountain, and the very boundaries of Earth. *Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor book*

**Perkins, Lynne Rae.** The Cardboard Piano. Greenwillow Books, 2008.

ISBN: 9780061542657

When Debbie tries to interest Tina in playing the piano by creating a cardboard keyboard, they find not only does it not have the same appeal but also that they do not need to share everything to be best friends. RL 3.4

**Philbrick, W.R.** The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg. Blue Sky Press, 2009.

ISBN: 9780439668187

Twelve-year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War. RL 4.9

**Pinchon, Liz.** Penguins. Scholastic, 2008. ISBN: 9780545082921

Penguins at the zoo have an exciting afternoon when one finds a camera left behind by a visitor. RL 2.5

**Pinkney, Andrea Davis.** Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation, illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Greenwillow Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780060821180

Illustrations and rhythmic text recall the December, 1955, bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. RL 2.5

**Portis, Antoinette.** A Penguin Story. HarperCollins, 2009. ISBN: 9780061456893

Edna the penguin tries to find something in her surroundings that is not black, white, or blue. RL 1.4

**Prelutsky, Jack.** The Swamps of Sleethe: Poems from Beyond the Solar System, illustrated by Jimmy Pickering. Knopf, 2009. ISBN: 9780375846748

A collection of poems with a planetary theme. RL 5.0

**Prineas, Sarah.** The Magic Thief. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 9780061375873

A young thief is drawn into a life of magic and adventure after picking the pocket of the powerful wizard Nevery Flinglas, who has returned from exile to attempt to reverse the troubling decline of magic in Wellmet City. Book 1 of *the Magic Thief* series. RL 4.5

**Prineas, Sarah.** Lost. Harper Collins, 2009. ISBN: 9780061375897

Young wizard's apprentice Connwaer travels to the city of Desh to find the source of the malevolent shadowmen who are plaguing Wellmet City. Book 2 of *The Magic Thief* series. RL 3.8

**Pulver, Robin.** Silent Letters Loud and Clear, illustrated by Lynne Rowe Reed. Holiday House, 2008. ISBN: 9780823421275

When Mr. Wright's students express a dislike for silent letters, the offended letters decide to teach them a lesson by going on strike. RL 2.8

**Rabin, Staton.** Mr. Lincoln's Boys, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. Viking, 2008. ISBN: 9780670061693

Tad and Willie Lincoln are the sons of Abraham Lincoln who treat the White House like a playground, aggravating everyone except their indulgent father. RL 3.8

**Rappaport, Doreen.** Abe's Honest Words, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. ISBN: 9781423104087

An illustrated biography of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States and the man responsible for seeing the country through the Civil War. RL 3.2

**Rappaport, Doreen.** Eleanor, Quiet No More. Disney/Hyperion, 2009.

ISBN: 9780786851416

A biographical tribute to the upbringing and career of Eleanor Roosevelt, who taught children in poor neighborhoods in New York City and worked as an ambassador, activist, and champion of civil rights. RL 4.1

**Reibstein, Mark.** Wabi Sabi, illustrated by Ed Young. Little, Brown, 2008.

ISBN: 9780316118255

Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, learns about the Japanese concept of beauty through simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name. RL 2.8 *Asian-Pacific American Illustrator Award*

**Rodriguez, Edel.** Sergio Saves the Game! Little, Brown & Co., 2009.

ISBN: 9780316066174

Although Sergio the penguin loves to play soccer, he is very clumsy and uncoordinated and he practices day and night, hoping he can help his team win the big game against the Seagulls. RL 2.1

**Rose , Deborah Lee.** The Twelve Days of Springtime: A School Counting Books, illustrated by Carey Armstrong-Ellis. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780810983304

The hilarious misadventures of a rambunctious classroom exploring the delights of spring, including mud, tadpoles, and baby farm animals. RL 2.8

**Rosen, Michael J.** Our Farm: Four Seasons with Five Kids on One Family's Farm. Darby Creek Publishers, 2008. ISBN: 9781581960679

A journal of one year on the Bennett farm in central Ohio. Shows how one family, with the help of relatives and friends, creates a life and livelihood on a 150-acre farm. RL 3.8

**Rosenthal, Amy Krouse.** Duck! Rabbit!, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld. Chronicle Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780811868655

This book is a clever take on the age-old optical illusion: Is it a duck or a rabbit? Depends on how you look at it! Readers will find a subtle lesson for kids who don't know when to let go of an argument. A smart, simple story that will make readers of all ages eager to take a side, Duck! Rabbit! RL 1.4

**Rosenthal, Amy Krouse.** Yes Day! HarperCollins, 2009. ISBN: 9780061152597  
A little boy gets everything he asks for on Yes Day, a special day that only comes once a year. RL 1.4

**Rosoff, Meg.** Wild Boars Cook. Henry Holt, 2008. ISBN: 9780805075236  
Besides being naughty, greedy, stinky, and rude, wild boars Boris, Morris, Horace, and Doris are also very hungry and luckily Doris finds the perfect recipe for them to make. RL 3.8

**Rumford, James.** Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad. Roaring Brook Press, 2008.  
ISBN: 9781596432765  
As bombs and missiles fall on Baghdad in 2003, a young boy uses the art of calligraphy to distance himself from the horror of war. RL 5.6

**Russell, Natalie.** Moon Rabbit. Viking Children's Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780670011704  
A city rabbit befriends a country rabbit, but soon she misses her home with its cafes and bright lights. RL 2.8

**Rylant, Cynthia.** All in a Day, illustrated by Nikki McClure. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780810983212  
Illustrations and rhyming text pay homage to a new day, with promises for the future in its "perfect piece of time." RL 1.5

**Sakai, Komako.** The Snow Day. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780545013215  
A little rabbit enjoys having a day off from kindergarten and spending time with his mother during a snowstorm, but his father's flight home is cancelled until the snow stops falling. RL 1.7

**Savadier, Elivia.** Will Sheila Share? Roaring Brook Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781596432895  
Nana helps teach her toddler granddaughter to share. RL 1.6

**Say, Allen.** Erika-San. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. ISBN: 9780618889334  
After falling in love with Japan as a little girl, Erika becomes a teacher and fulfills her childhood dream by moving to a remote Japanese island. RL 2.8

**Sayre, April Pulley.** Honk, Honk, Goose!: Canada Geese Start a Family, illustrated by Huy Voun Lee. Henry Holt and Company, 2009. ISBN: 9780805071030  
A father goose chooses a mate and stands guard while she lays six eggs, sits on the nest for twenty-eight days, and takes the new chicks for their first swim. RL 2.6

**Scieszka, Jon.** Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka. Viking, 2008. ISBN: 9780670011063  
How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner. RL 4.6

**Scotton, Rob.** Love, Splat. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 9780060831578  
Splat the cat has a special valentine for a certain someone in his class. RL 2.0

**Seder, Rufus Butler.** Swing! Workman, 2008. ISBN: 9780761151272  
Rhyming text asks if the reader can do a variety of sports activities. Striped acetate overlays on board pages give illustrations the illusion of movement. RL 2.1

**Seeger, Laura Vaccaro.** One Boy. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781596432741

A boy creates ten paintings in this counting book that also explores the relationship of words within words. *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

**Seidler, Tor.** Gully's Travels, illustrated by Brock Cole. Michael Di Capua Books/Scholastic, 2008. ISBN: 9780545025065

Gulliver leads a life of luxury with his master. But when his master falls in love with a woman who is allergic to dogs, Gulliver is sent to a new home. He finds himself with a family of raucous human beings and three mutts. But just as Gulliver begins to make a grudging peace with his new reality, he gets swept up in a harrowing new adventure. RL 5.6

**Shange, Ntozake.** Coretta Scott, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Katherine Tegen Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780061253645

This extraordinary union of poetry and monumental artwork captures the movement for civil rights in the United States, and honors it most elegant inspiration, Coretta Scott. RL 4.4

**Shea, Bob.** Dinosaur vs. Bedtime. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008.

ISBN: 9781423113355

A young dinosaur takes on many challenges and wins every time. Then Dinosaur faces his toughest challenge of all: bedtime. RL 1.6

**Sierra, Judy.** Born to Read, illustrated by Marc Brown. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

ISBN: 9780375846878

A little boy named Sam discovers the many unexpected ways in which a love of reading can come in handy, and sometimes even save the day. RL 3.1

**Sierra, Judy.** The Sleepy Little Alphabet: A Bedtime Story from Alphabet Town, illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. ISBN: 9780375840029

Sleepy letters of the alphabet get ready for bed. RL 1.9

**Siwanowicz, Igor.** Animals Up Close: Zoom in on the World's Most Incredible Creatures.

Dorling Kindersley, 2009. ISBN: 9780756645137

This visually stunning natural history book features dramatically close-up images of animals from insects to reptiles to mammals to birds, revealing the colors, textures, and structures of each animal. RL 8.0

**Spirin, Gennady.** Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Marshall Cavendish, 2009.

ISBN: 9780761455967

A simplified retelling of the adventures of a little girl walking in the woods who finds the house of the three bears and helps herself to their belongings. Includes a note on the history of the tale. RL 1.5

**Slate, Joseph.** I Want to Be Free, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2009.

ISBN: 9780399243424

Based on a sacred Buddhist tale as related in Rudyard Kipling's novel "Kim," tells of an escaped slave who rescues an abandoned baby from slave hunters. RL 2.2

**Stewart, Amber.** No Babysitters Allowed, illustrated by Laura Rankin. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2008. ISBN: 9781599901541

Hopscotch is a very brave young rabbit until his parents go out and leave him with a babysitter. RL 4.6

**Stone, Tanya Lee.** Almost Astronauts: 13 women Who Dared to Dream. Candlewick Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780763636111

Profiles thirteen women who challenged social norms and government policies to prove they could be exceptional astronauts. RL 5.7 *Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor book*

**Tafolla, Carmen.** What Can You Do with a Rebozo?, illustrated by Amy C rova. Tricycle Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781582462202

A spunky young girl explains the many uses of her mother's red rebozo, a traditional Mexican woven shawl. RL 2.9 *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award Honor book*

**Tanaka, Shelley.** Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator, illustrated by David Craig. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9780810970953

Ever since Amelia Earhart and her plane disappeared on July 2, 1937, people have wanted to know more about this remarkable woman. Amelia Earhart follows the charismatic aviator from her first sight of an airplane at the age of ten to the last radio transmission she made before she vanished. Illustrated with original artworks, contemporary photographs, quotes, and details, this is a great introduction to the famous pilot. RL 6.4 *Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children*

**Thomas, Jan.** Rhyming Dust Bunnies. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9781416979760

As three dust bunnies, Ed, Ned, and Ted, are demonstrating how much they love to rhyme, a fourth, Bob, is trying to warn them of approaching danger. RL 1.1

**Thomas, Joyce Carol.** The Blacker the Berry, illustrated by Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN: 9780060253752

A collection of poems, including "Golden Goodness," "Cranberry Red," and "Biscuit Brown," celebrating individuality and Afro-American identity. RL 2.9 *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, Coretta Scott King Author Honor book*

**Thompson, Lauren.** Wee Little Chick, illustrated by John Butler. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN: 9781416934684

When the other barnyard animals comment on how tiny the littlest chick is, the proud little one peeps louder, stands taller, and runs faster than any of them. RL 1.7

**Trachtenberg, Stanley.** The Elevator Man, illustrated by Paul Cox. Eerdmans, 2009. ISBN: 9780802853158

When the elevator in a building in the 1950s is modernized, a young resident misses the operator. RL 3.1

**Truss, Lynne.** Twenty-Odd Ducks: Why, Every Punctuation Mark Counts!, illustrated by Bonnie Timmons. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. ISBN: 9780399250583

See how the punctuation marks you use (and where you put them) can completely change the meaning of what you write. RL 1.7

**Vail, Rachel.** Jibberwillies at Night, illustrated by Yumi Heo. Scholastic Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780439420709

Katie is almost always happy, but sometimes at night, when the Jibberwillies come and scare her, her mother must catch them in a bucket and throw them out the window before Katie can fall asleep. RL 3.9

**Walker, Rob D.** Mama Says: A Book of Love for Mothers and Sons, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Blue Sky Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780439932080

A man recalls all of the important lessons Mama taught about behavior and faith in God as he was growing up. RL 1.7

**Weatherford, Carole Boston.** Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane, illustrated by Sean Qualls. Henry Holt, 2008. ISBN: 9780805079944  
This lyrical picture-book biography of John Coltrane focuses on his childhood and how he interpreted sounds before he made his music. RL 3.8 *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Honor book*

**Wells, Rosemary.** Yoko Writes Her Name. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. ISBN: 9780786803712  
Kindergartner Yoko not only learns to write her letters and numbers in English, she shows her teacher and fellow students how to write their names using Japanese calligraphy. RL 2.1

**Willems, Mo.** Are You Ready to Play Outside? Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. ISBN: 9781423113478  
Friends Elephant and Piggie are playing outside when it starts to rain, and then they must decide what to do. RL 1.3 *Theodor Seuss Geisel Award book*

**Willems, Mo.** Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed. Hyperion Books for Children, 2009. ISBN: 9781423114376  
Wilbur, a naked mole rat who likes to wear clothes, is forced to go before the wise community elder, who surprises the other naked mole rats with his pronouncement. RL 2.9

**Willems, Mo.** Watch Me Throw the Ball! Hyperion Books for Children, 2009. ISBN: 9781423113485  
Gerald the elephant tries to tell Piggie that ball-throwing is serious business, but Piggie just wants to have fun. RL 1.3

**Williams, Karen Lynn.** My Name Is Sangoel, illustrated by Catherine Stock. Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN: 9780802853073  
As a refugee from Sudan to the United States, Sangoel is frustrated that no one can pronounce his name correctly until he finds a clever way to solve the problem. RL 2.3

**Wilson, Karma.** Mortimer's First Garden, illustrated by Dan Andreasen. Margaret M. McElderry Books, 2009. ISBN: 9781416942030  
Little Mortimer Mouse, longing to see something green at winter's end, follows the lead of the big people and plants, waters, and weeds his last sunflower seed until, finally, with God's help and a lot of patience, he harvests his crop. RL 1.5

**Winter, Jeanette.** Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa. Harcourt, 2008. ISBN: 9780152065454  
This true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one woman's passion, vision, and determination inspired great change. RL 3.5

**Winter, Jonah.** The Fabulous Feud of Gilbert & Sullivan, illustrated by Richard Egielski. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780439930505  
In the late nineteenth century, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Sullivan, who write operas together for a theater called Topsy-Turvydom, have a falling-out when Mr. Sullivan refuses to write music for another ridiculous story that is like all the others. RL 4.0

**Winter, Jonah.** You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! Schwartz and Wade Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780375837388  
In this striking picture book biography, an old-timer tells us what made Sandy Koufax so amazing. We learn that the beginning of his career with the Brooklyn Dodgers was rocky,

that he was shy with his teammates, and experienced discrimination as one of the only Jews in the game. We hear that he actually quit, only to return the next season--firing one rocket after another over the plate. We watch him refuse to play in the 1965 World Series because it is a Jewish high holy day. And we see him in pain because of an overused left arm, eventually retiring at the peak of his career. Finally, we are told that people are still "scratchin' their heads over Sandy," who remains a modest hero and a mystery to this day. RL 3.7

**Winters, Kay.** Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak, illustrated by Larry Day. Dutton Children's Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780525478720

Kay Winters' poems in the voices of different colonists, enhanced by historical notes, provide a glimpse into life in colonial times and the dramatic events of a famous rebellion. RL 4.4

**Wormell, Christopher.** The Animals Came Two by Two: The Story of Noah's Ark. Running Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780762427185

Includes information about each of the animals depicted in the wood-engraved illustrations. Presents the biblical story of Noah's Ark, in which two of each animal are rescued from a flood; and also introduces the concept of opposites. RL 2.7

**Young, Ed.** Hook. Roaring Brook Press, 2009. ISBN: 9781596433632

A chick hatched by hens turns out to be an eaglet who must get help from a boy in learning how to fly. RL 0.9

**Yum, Hyewon.** Last Night. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. ISBN: 9780374343583

Sent to her room for refusing to eat her dinner, a little girl soon falls asleep and together with her bear friend begins a fantastic voyage deep into the forest where they dance and play all night. Wordless book

**Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn.** Steady Hands: Poems About Work, illustrated by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy. Clarion Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780618903511

Free-verse poems profile a wide variety of jobs. RL 5.6

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